

STATEMENT OF MR. JACK NELSON, PRESIDENT, NELSON TRAVEL SERVICE, SHAWNEE  
MISSION, KANSAS

COMMENTS

1. Although loss of business is of concern, I am strongly opposed to the subject program because of the disastrous effect of such legislation on the U.S. economy and the American people. This has always been a nation of freedom of travel, as well as expression, and such a program as proposed would restrict individual freedom. One immigrant was heard to say, "I came to this country in the first place for freedom because I was told where I could travel and when, back in Europe. But, now, there is talk of the same thing here."

2. The proposal is discriminatory legislation based upon misleading statistics, and strikes hardest at the middle and lower income earners by increasing their total travel costs approximately 30 percent. It will also limit the vitally needed student and teacher educational travel by the excessive costs it imposes. It will not deter the wealthy.

3. It will burden travelers and government with an interminable volume of paper work that will be impossible to administer equitably and create a larger bureaucracy at additional cost to the taxpayer.

4. It would drastically reduce many countries' vitally needed tourist dollars they use to pay for U.S. goods and services, thus affecting adversely our favorable trade balance.

5. If enacted, it would undoubtedly cause the cancellation of much of the almost 2.5 billion dollars in aircraft orders placed with U.S. manufacturers by foreign carriers and cause substantial unemployment in the aircraft, components and electronics industry.

6. A further drain on the U.S. dollar position would undoubtedly be generated by the need to replace tourist dollar earnings with greater foreign aid appropriations.

7. Since European travel is higher rated and higher commissioned than domestic travel, our sales would be reduced to the point where we would be facing a loss position, our federal income tax would be wiped out, and possibly our company.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Feasible programs to promote increased two-way tourism to the United States, to reduce the imbalance of payments.

2. The organization of travel agents throughout the world in a cooperative campaign to send more tourism to the U.S.

3. The development of more low priced tours that will accent the possibility for a greater number of people to visit the U.S. All airlines, including foreign flag carriers, are now actively promoting this type of tourism.

4. Step up exports with the help of international airlines' marketing systems as well as those of the Department of Commerce including trade missions, export seminars, advice and counsel. It seems fantastic that the business-men of our country, willing to travel to Europe to promote our exports, are now about to be penalized for doing so.

5. Re-examine the facts and figures supporting the statement that there is an imbalance of payments position with respect to Europe particular in view of the recent flood of direct mail brochures and literature received from the foreign flag carriers testifying to the fact that in their particular cases the imbalance is in favor of the U.S.

ONTARIO TRAVEL BUREAU,  
Ontario, Calif., February 13, 1968.

MR. WILBUR D. MILLS,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: The administration's proposed travel taxes should be soundly defeated.

It is a slap in the face to any country Americans want to visit and will undoubtedly provoke more "anti-American" feelings (which we have enough of now) and retaliatory measures by other governments to restrict their citizens from visiting the U.S.